



MALS-13 FAMILY READINESS

Commander's Intent:

MALS-13 is ready to execute its mission of providing the most responsive, effective, and efficient aviation logistics support to the squadrons of MAG-13 anywhere in the world, at any time - enabled by Marines with well informed, supportive, and strong families.

Background

Many of us have heard the old saying, "If the Marine Corps wanted me to have a spouse, they would have issued me one!" This once narrow view of Family Readiness is certainly outdated. Since the terrible attacks of 9/11, the deployment tempo within the Marine Corps has seen a significant increase, in some cases very significant. The Marine Corps saw the impact of increased operational tempo on the families and knew something needed to be done to assist with Family Readiness.

What is Family Readiness?

Per MCO 1754.9A, "Family readiness is defined as families who are prepared and equipped with the skills and tools to successfully meet the challenges of the military lifestyle. Family readiness directly affects the fundamental purpose of the Marine Corps to make Marines and win battles by building commitment and raising morale, thereby increasing unit readiness."

Why is Family Readiness important?

Family readiness is as important as combat readiness. We know that military families endure a lot. And every Marine and Sailor bears the responsibility of ensuring their family is well-prepared for any and every event that comes their way.

Who can help if there is a problem?

- **Chain of Command:** Marines look out for Marines. We always have and we always will.
- **Family Readiness Officer (FRO):** The Family Readiness Officer is Mr. Larry Leaver. He is a civilian (and retired Marine) who works directly for me. He assists Marines daily at the squadron and remains here at MCAS Yuma, AZ to assist the families of MALS-13 when detachments from the squadron deploy. He is my main point of contact for communication with MALS-13 family members during their Marine's deployment.
- **Family Readiness Command Team:** This includes me, the XO, the Sergeant Major, our spouses, the squadron Family Readiness Officer (FRO), the Deputy FROs, and the MAG-13 Chaplain.

Life in the Marine Corps is challenging, yet rewarding. Often, it is harder on the families than the actual Marines working long hours and deploying to combat! Use the myriad of personnel and resources available to keep your family life happy and balanced.

Lieutenant Colonel Ryan J. Hart
Commanding Officer, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13



Family Readiness = Mission Readiness

